A – Harper, Langmaid & Emmet, 2002. *Oecophoridae*, pp. 43-177. In: *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, Volume 4(1). Harley Books.

B – Bradley, Tremewan & Smith, 1973 & 1979. *British tortricoid moths*. Ray Society

C – Goater, 1986. *British pyralid moths*. Harley Books.

D – Skinner, 1998. *The colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles*. Viking.

E – Waring, Townsend & Lewington, 2003. *Field guide to the moths of Great Britain and Ireland*. British Wildlife Publishing.

* denotes single examples unless otherwise stated.

** denotes southern Britain where stipulated.

Records from one site in one year are obviously not enough to answer the question posed in the title. Knill-Jones (1999. *Ent. Gaz.* **50**: 85-89) noted several late (and early) records from the Isle of Wight since 1989, including several of the species listed above, and suggested that this favoured global warming as a possible explanation. It is clear from the records above that many species are capable of producing a partial second or even third brood and others will have an extended flight period during favourable weather conditions. 2003 was clearly a year that produced conditions for this to happen, although it is worth mentioning the possibility that some of these individuals may have had their origin beyond these shores. Only the compilation and examination of further data from a wider range of sites and years will answer the bigger question.— MARK PARSONS, Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Dorset BH20 5QP.

Late season adult Grey Birch *Aethalura punctulata* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in a light-trap on 17 August 2002 in Nottinghamshire

The continuing interest in the occurrence of second and even third generations of some of our moths which have seldom previously produced more than one generation, prompts me to report the above record. A single fresh adult of the Grey Birch *Aethalura punctulata* was captured in one of seven light-traps operated during the BENHS field meeting at Misson Carr, Nottinghamshire, on 17 August 2002. The species normally flies in May and June. The moth was not noticeably smaller, or otherwise different from individuals seen at another BENHS meeting on 17 May 2003 on the same site. In such cases, it is never certain whether the late moth is a delayed individual of the first generation, or the progeny of a female that flew earlier the same year. That there were seven traps operating and only one individual recorded suggests either there were not many others about, or that it was perhaps one of the first of any August adults. Further details of the field meeting will be published in *Br. J. ent. Nat. Hist.* **17**. I do not recall seeing this species so late in the summer before, but late individuals have been reported occasionally by others, e.g. at Westerham, Kent, on 24 September 1924 (*Ent. Rec.* **36**: 143).— PAUL WARING, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6LS.